

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H3/18/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1700

5 By: Representative Bentley
6 By: Senator G. Stubblefield
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING
10 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WITH
11 RELIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE
12 AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING
17 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUIDANCE
18 COUNSELORS WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION
19 REGARDING THE COST OF COLLEGE AND JOB
20 OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) A fundamental goal of Arkansas's secondary and higher
29 education system is not only to educate and enrich young people, but also to
30 help young people establish a solid foundation for good-paying work;

31 (2) The cost of college continues to increase for young
32 individuals across the country, and student debt has become the second-
33 largest financial debt vehicle in the United States;

34 (3) The General Assembly is proud of its institutions of higher
35 education and believes they can compete with any in the nation, but their
36 cost to enrollees must be as transparent as possible;



1 (5) The average total federal student loan debt for graduates of
2 in-state colleges for four-year degrees and graduate programs;

3 (6) The average graduation rate for all colleges and vocational
4 schools in the state;

5 (7) The completion rates for:

6 (A) Apprenticeship programs;

7 (B) High school credential programs; and

8 (C) Career and technical education programs;

9 (8) The share of college graduates working in an occupation that
10 does not require a college degree for each major;

11 (9) The approximate average starting salary for individuals
12 graduating from a college;

13 (10) The approximate average starting salary for individuals who
14 have completed:

15 (A) An apprenticeship program;

16 (B) A high school credential program; or

17 (C) A career and technical education program; and

18 (11) The approximate average starting salary for individuals
19 graduating from a vocational school in the state.

20 (b) The department shall work with the following entities without
21 limitation to collect and compile the information required under subsection
22 (a) of this section:

23 (1) The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce;

24 (2) The Division of Career and Technical Education; and

25 (3) The Division of Higher Education.

26 (c) The information collected and compiled under subsection (a) of
27 this section may be collected in conjunction with information collected for
28 other reports that require the same information.

29 6-60-1203. Information published to public by Department of Education.

30 (a) The Department of Education shall establish and make available to
31 the public an online tool called the "Student Horizon Database" that contains
32 a searchable database that compares the following among colleges and
33 vocational schools based on users' selections:

34 (1) Approximate average annual cost;

35 (2) Graduation rate;

36 (3) Salary after attending;

1 (4) Highest paying salaries for top five (5) majors;
2 (5) Full-time enrollment amounts;
3 (6) Race and ethnicity information;
4 (7) Percentage of students paying down their federal student
5 loan debts;
6 (8) Typical total federal student loan debt after graduation;
7 (9) Students receiving federal student loans;
8 (10) Typical monthly federal student loan payment;
9 (11) Students who return after their first year; and
10 (12) Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current enrollment
11 status for students eight (8) years after attending.

12 (b)(1) The database established under subsection (a) of this section
13 shall provide individuals with the ability to select a specific major or
14 program at a specific college or vocational school.

15 (2) Upon selecting a specific major or program at a specific
16 college or vocational school while using the database, the following overview
17 shall be provided, to be filled in with information required under subsection
18 (a) of this section as it applies to the specific major or program at the
19 specific college or vocational school that the individual selected:

20 "For every 100 students starting in {insert major} at this
21 {insert university, college, career and technical education program, or
22 certificate program}, {insert number} will graduate in 6 years; of those,
23 {insert number} will get a job with an average starting salary of {insert
24 salary} within 6 months of graduation. The average debt for the graduates
25 will be {insert debt}. The total cost on average for this degree is {insert
26 total amount paid}. Of the {insert number} who don't graduate, they will
27 accumulate an average debt of {insert debt}."

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29 6-60-1204. Information published and distributed to middle and high
30 school students by Department of Education.

31 The Department of Education shall publish and distribute to middle and
32 high school students in the State of Arkansas on an annual basis a
33 comparison, using the information collected under § 6-60-1202, that contains
34 the following information without limitation:

35 (1) The top fifty (50) majors for four-year degrees by salaries
36 after graduating;

